

Selected Task Force and Advisory Panels

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Governor's Advisory Drought Planning Panel's Critical Water Shortage Contingency Plan

In response to the commitment in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program's Record of Decision, the Governor convened a panel to develop a "contingency plan to reduce the impacts of critical water shortages primarily for agricultural and urban water users." Panel members met four times between late August and December 2000 to hear informational briefings and to develop the contingency plan. The panel recommended 16 actions within broader categories:

- DWR should implement a Critical Water Shortage Reduction Marketing Program, building on experience gained from DWR's past drought water banks. The program would be operated as a water purchasing and allocation program. DWR would acquire options to purchase water from willing sellers and would exercise the options as needed to make water available for sale to water users experiencing critical water shortages.
- DWR should provide technical assistance and educational programs to small water systems and homeowners in rural counties.
- DWR should establish an AB 3030 technical assistance program and update Bulletin 118 to provide improved groundwater data.
- DWR and other CALFED agencies should work in partnership with local water agencies to assist them in developing plans to facilitate integrated management of supplies for agricultural, urban, and environmental purposes.
- DWR should identify and seek funding for research in the areas of long-range weather forecasting, global climate change, and paleoclimatology. DWR should also develop regional hydrologic drought indices to help in statewide monitoring and develop a public outreach program to stress the need for drought preparedness.
- The Governor should take all possible actions to ensure rapid disbursement of Proposition 13 funds and that DWR maximize the use of grants, rather than capitalization loans, to bring local agencies up to the base level of water use efficiency contemplated in the CALFED ROD.

Floodplain Management

- Floodplain management includes actions to the floodplain to reduce losses to human resources within the floodplain and/or protect benefits to natural resources associated with flooding. For example:
 - Minimizing impacts of flows
 - Maintaining or restoring natural floodplain processes
 - Removing obstacles within the floodplain voluntarily or with just compensation
 - Keeping obstacles out of the floodplain
 - Educating and emergency preparedness planning
 - Ensuring that operations of floodwater management systems are not compromised by activities that interfere with, or are damaged by, design floods of these systems.

Stormwater Management Quality Task Force Recommendations

The California Stormwater Quality Task Force was formed in 1989 to assist the State Water Resources Control Board in implementing the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Stormwater Program in California. Some of the task force work products include:

- Revision of California Best Management Practices Handbooks
- Input to regulatory initiatives on pesticides, permitting
- Public education and outreach
- Best management practice guidance

California Floodplain Management Task Force Recommendations

In an effort to reduce the impacts of flooding through better coordination of floodplain management, Assembly Bill 1147 recommended establishment of a Floodplain Task Force. The California Floodplain Management Task Force was established in early 2002 to examine specific issues related to State and local floodplain management. The Task Force, a diverse group of private, non-profit, and local interest groups and State, federal, and local agencies, created more than 30 recommendation for improved floodplain management. Recommendations then grew from three basic themes:

- Better Understanding and Reducing Risks from Reasonably Foreseeable Flooding. Local, State and federal agencies should consider the risk to life and property from reasonably foreseeable floods when making their land use and floodplain management decisions. To do this effectively, decision-makers need better tools and information and specific methods to comply with the federal National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
- Multi-Objective Management Approach for Floodplains – Multi-Objective Management Approach for Floodplains. State, local and federal agencies should implement multi-objective floodplain management on a watershed basis. Where feasible, projects should provide adequate protection for natural, recreational, residential, business, economic, agricultural, and cultural resources, and protect water quality and supply.
- Local Assistance, Funding, and Legislation for Floodplain Management. DWR should identify and actively pursue funding opportunities, technical assistance to local governments and other organizations, and legislative proposals to implement Task Force recommendations and ensure successful floodplain management, recognizing that local governments have the primary responsibility and authority for land use decisions.

The Reclamation Board of the State of California endorsed the California Floodplain Management Task Force Report on December 20, 2002. Floodplain use can influence water supply reliability including water quality.

Governor's Commission on Building for the 21st Century

Governor Gray Davis convened a commission to consider the challenge of investing in the infrastructure of California for the 21st Century. The commission was directed to "study the building and infrastructure needs of California, with the intent of identifying existing critical infrastructure needs and developing a comprehensive long-term capital investment plan for financing public building needs, including responsible financial approaches and efficiency improvements." The commission's interim report in August 1999 outlined findings and recommendations for facilities, natural resources, technology and transportation. The commission recommended a \$3 billion bond for critical resources including water, parks, and open space.

State Recycling Task Force Recommendations

Assembly Bill 331 would require the Department of Water Resources to convene the 2002 Recycled Water Task Force with specified membership to advise the department in investigating the opportunities for using recycled water in industrial and commercial applications and in identifying impediments and constraints to increasing the industrial and commercial use of recycled water, and would require a report to the Legislature with recommendations on specified topics not later than July 1, 2003.

Joint Task Force on California Watershed Management Recommendations

- Adopt a Statewide Watershed Policy
- Develop a Strategic Plan
- Improve Technical Assistance & Communication
- Clarify Link to Regulations
- Leverage Multiple funding Sources and Consider Long-Term Funding
- Ensure Watershed Partnerships have Access to Science and Monitoring
- Ensure Public Accountability

The Task Force identified and adopted 26 issues with respective recommendations to address obstacles, impediments, and opportunities for California to increase its recycled water usage. Among the key findings, possibilities of enhanced use of recycled water in landscape irrigation of highway medians, golf courses, parks, and schoolyards; industrial uses such as power station cooling towers, oil refinery boiler feed water, carpet dyeing, recycled newspaper processing, laundries; and agricultural uses such as irrigation of produce, pastures for animal feed, and nursery plant products and in office buildings for toilet flushing would lead to save fresh water. The task force concluded that California has the potential to recycle up to 1.5 million acre-feet per year by the year 2030. This could free up freshwater supplies to meet approximately 30 percent of the household water needs associated with projected population growth. However, to achieve that potential, Californians will have to invest nearly \$11 billion (approximately \$400 million annually) for additional infrastructure to produce and deliver the recycled water.

State Watershed Management Guidelines and Initiative

Assembly Bill 2117 (Wayne, Chapter 735, Statutes of 2000) required a report to the Legislature on California's watershed status and any needed changes in State laws. The State Secretary for Resources and Chair of the State Water Resources Control Board formed the Joint Task Force on California Watershed Management, an interagency and stakeholder effort, to discuss the results of 10 case studies, to refine the findings, and to craft major recommendations to move the State in a new direction to protect and restore watersheds, lakes, rivers and estuaries in California. The Task Force's April 2002 report, *Addressing the Need to Protect California's Watersheds: Working with Local Partnerships*, contained six major recommendations.

Water Desalination Task Force

This Assembly Bill would require the Department of Water Resources, not later than July 1, 2004, to report to the Legislature, on potential opportunities and impediments for using seawater and brackish water desalination, and to examine what role, if any, the state should play in furthering the use of desalination technology. The bill would require the department to convene a Water Desalination Task

Force, comprised of representatives from listed agencies and interest groups, to advise the department in carrying out these duties and in making recommendations to the Legislature.

The Task force came up with 41 key findings and 29 major recommendations. Among these it was identified that desalination can provide significant value and numerous benefits. These include:

- Providing additional water supply to meet existing and projected demands
- Replacing water lost from other sources and relieving drought conditions
- Enhancing water reliability and supplying high quality potable water
- Reducing groundwater overdraft and restoring use of polluted groundwater
- Replacing water that can be used for river and stream ecosystem restoration

